

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
April 28, 2015

**CALL TO ORDER:** 6:30 p.m.

**INVOCATION:** Reverend Calvin White – Faith Movers Church

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL:** Mr. Spann was absent. All other members were present.

**PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, REMONSTRATIONS:**

The Historical Museum has a display set up in honor of fallen Officer Nickolaus Schultz. The museum is open Sundays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. thru October (excludes holiday weekends). They encouraged all to visit. Mr. Guernsey performed the swearing in of Police Officers Christopher Davis and Ian Fultz.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher dated April 28, 2015. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of April 14, 2015. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Widing. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**BUDGET & FINANCE:** Mr. Pettit had no report.

**PUBLIC WORKS:** Mr. Spann was absent, no report.

**COUNCIL AFFAIRS:** Mrs. Miano had no report.

**PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:** Mr. Pettit had no report.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** Mr. Widing had no report.

**PARKS & RECREATION:**

Mrs. Miano had no report. Ms. Orlich announced that multiple programs offered by the Parks department will be published in The Times Newspaper on Wednesday, April 29, 2015. Also, the same program information is going to be printed in a circular on May 6, 2015 which is sent out to all Merrillville residents. Ms. Orlich stated that we are moving forward with a new playground at Wirtes Park.

**ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:**

Mr. Lake has an Agreement between the Town of Merrillville and Merrillville Stormwater Utility for labor for maintaining the utility's facilities and constructing small drainage projects for the utility. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Lake has a Grant of Easement between the Town of Merrillville and Calumet Park Cemetery. Grant of Easement for storm sewer, ingress, egress and surface drainage to the Town of Merrillville Stormwater Management board on behalf of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Lake also mentioned that they have finished the work at 73rd Ave & Taft St for the drainage improvement project.

**ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:**

Mrs. Miano announced that she will be working with some non-for-profit hearing aid companies to possibly offer free hearing aid exams. They also may be able to possibly offer free hearing aids up to \$200.00. The target date will be in June and the program will be offered to low income (gross salary of \$29,000 and below).

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**

Mr. Pettit commented on the demolition activity in progress at the old Wicks Furniture for the construction of the new Ashley Furniture. He also mentioned the continued construction activity happening at multiple locations within the town.

**UTILITY LIAISON:**

Mrs. Barron stated the site has been determined as to where two of the benches will be placed. She is working on the location for placement of additional benches. A discussion followed regarding the process of having all remaining benches picked up and delivered. Mrs. Barron mentioned that the cap program will continue. A conversation followed regarding the recycling program.

**ABANDONED PROPERTIES:** Mr. Hardaway had no report.

**GENERAL ORDERS:**

**FIRST READING ORDINANCES:**

**Ord. 15-12:** An Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, regulating Hotel and Motel Occupancies. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Widing. A discussion followed by Mr. Pettit expression his appreciation for the development of this ordinance. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

**SECOND READING ORDINANCES:**

**Ord. 15-10:** An Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, amending ordinance 15-08 and fixing the Parks non-reverting program fees for the year 2015. Mr. Widing made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

**RESOLUTIONS:** None

**BZA ACTIONS:**

**Petitioner:** James Witczak  
**Owner:** James Witczak  
**Request:** Special exception approval  
**Purpose:** For a used retail vehicle sales facility  
**Location:** 7900-7930 Whitcomb Street  
**Zoning:** C-2, Community Commercial  
**Case #:** Z8E2-0315  
**Conditions:** 1.) For this petitioner only at this location only for this use only.  
2.) All parking of displayed vehicles must be on hard surface.  
3.) No repairs of vehicles on site.

Mr. Goralczyk commented on how this location was a blighted building and now become an asset to the community. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Hardaway. Mr. Pettit's motion includes all conditions for this request. No further discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**Petitioner:** John Dewitt  
**Owner:** John Dewitt  
**Request:** Variance of use approval  
**Purpose:** For a proposed trucking, moving and U-Lock Storage facility  
**Location:** 6490 Broadway  
**Zoning:** C-3, Highway Commercial  
**Case #:** Z9uV4-0315  
**Conditions:** 1.) For this petitioner only at this location only for this use only.  
2.) Parking of semi's, trailers, and trucks – (Ray's Movers) and outside storage of boats, RV's etc. must be on hard surface.

Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve including all conditions and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. Discussion followed in regards to this request. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**Petitioner:** John Dewitt  
**Owner:** John Dewitt  
**Request:** Special exception approval  
**Purpose:** For a proposed rental of trucks & trailers  
**Location:** 6490 Broadway  
**Zoning:** C-3, Highway Commercial  
**Case #:** Z10E3-0315  
**Conditions:** 1.) For this petitioner only at this location only for this use only.  
2.) No trucks or trailers placed up front along the Broadway right of way.

Mr. Widing made a motion to approve including all conditions and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. Discussion followed regarding implementing additional conditions in regards to the truck placement. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Hardaway requested to know what type of business is operating at the location of 57th & Harrison St, in Ward 7. He stated there are multiple vehicles parked on the grass, which is unacceptable. Mr. Hardaway would like a response by Friday, May 1, 2015.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

All public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at Town Hall.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Fire Territory Board meeting, April 29, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. at Station #2  
Stormwater Management Board meeting, May 6, 2015  
Plan Commission workshop, May 6, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.  
Police Commission meeting, May 8, 2015 at 8:00 a.m.  
RDC meeting, May 12, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.  
Town Council meeting, May 12, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned.